

Atty. Docket No.: PALM.0869

Patent 10/006,525

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were pending in the application. Within the Office Action mailed July 27, 2005, claims 1-30 were rejected. By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2, 14, 16-18, 20-22 and 26 have been amended. Claims 31-36 have been added. Claims 1-36 remain pending in the application.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

A. Claims 1-6, 9, 10 and 12-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barkan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,536,930).

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of ***“first and second housing segments; a first module contained in the first housing segment, [and] a second module contained in the second housing segment.”*** Support for this amendment is found, at least, on least page 4, lines 10-11 of the specification, which describes, e.g. “a plurality of housing segments, with each housing segment having one of the modules.” Barkan does not disclose or suggest an embodiment wherein first and second modules are respectively contained within separate first and second housing segments. For at least these reasons, independent Claim 1 now stands allowable over the teachings of Barkan.

Newly added claim 31 depends from independent Claim 1, and includes a feature wherein ***“the first housing segment is detachable coupled to the second housing segment.”*** Support for this feature is found at least on page 17, lines 6-20, and page 18, lines 18-19 of the specification. Newly added claim 32 depends from independent Claim 1, and includes a feature “wherein the first module is configured to operate in an alternative mode wherein the first and second modules are operational concurrently.” Support for this feature is found at least on page 21, lines 2-3.

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Claims 2-6, 9, 10 and 12-13, and newly added claims 31-37 are dependent on independent Claim 1. As discussed above, Claim 1 now stands allowable over the teachings of Barkan. Claims 2-6, 9, 10 and 12-13, and newly added claims 31-32 are therefore allowable, as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Independent Claim 14 was rejected as anticipated by Barkan. Independent Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitation of *"sharing a common component between the first module and second modules wherein the common component is configured to remain active during the activation of the first module."* Support for this amendment is found at least on page 13, lines 9-10 of the specification. Barkan does not disclose or suggest an active component that is shared between various modules during their respective periods of activity. For at least these reasons, independent Claim 14 now stands allowable over the teachings disclosed in Barkan.

Newly added claim 33 depends from Claim 14, and features the method of claim 14, further comprising the steps: *"deactivating the first module; and activating the second module, wherein the common component remains active during the activation of the second module."* Newly added claims 34-35 depend from Claim 14, and include features wherein *the shared component can be a processor or a user interface feature*. Support for these features also derives at least from page 11, lines 3-4; page 12, lines 15-16 and page 13, lines 9-10 of the specification.

Claims 15-21, and newly added claims 33-35 depend from independent Claim 14. As discussed above, independent Claim 14 is now allowable over the teachings of Barkan. Claims 15-21 and newly added claims 33-35 are therefore allowable, as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Independent Claim 22 was rejected as anticipated by Barkan. Independent Claim 22 has been amended to include the limitation *"wherein at least one of said first and second modules is configured to engage in at least one form of wireless communication."*

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Support for this feature derives at least from page 9, lines 1-3; page 10, lines 20-21; page 18 lines 7-8; and page 20, lines 5-10.

Barkan does not disclose or suggest a limitation of a module configured to engage in at least one form of wireless communication. For at least these reasons, independent Claim 22 now stands allowable over the teachings disclosed in Barkan.

Newly added claim 36 depends from claim 22, and includes the limitation ***"wherein the at least one form of wireless communication is selected from a group of wireless communication activities consisting of global positioning system activity, cellular telephone activity, modem activity, wireless receiver activity, and combinations thereof."*** Support for this claim derives at least from the portions of the specification discussed in conjunction with claim 22 above.

Newly added claim 37 depends from claim 36, and includes elements commonly known to those skilled in the art of cellular telephone features, thereby deriving support at least from page 9, lines 1-3; page 10, lines 20-21; page 18 lines 7-8; and page 20, lines 5-10.

Claims 23-25, and newly added claims 36-37 depend from independent Claim 22. As discussed above, independent Claim 22 now stands allowable over the teachings of Barkan. Claims 23-25 and newly added claims 36-27 are therefore allowable, as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Independent Claim 26 was rejected as anticipated by Barkan. Independent Claim 26 has been amended to include the limitation of ***"a common component that can be functionally engaged by the first set of user-interface features when they are active, and by the second set of user-interface features when they are active."*** Support for this amendment derives at least from page 13, lines 9-10 of the specification.

Barkan does not disclose or suggest a common component that is shared between various modules, such as a processor, that is capable of actively engaging the selected

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module. Accordingly, independent Claim 26 now stands allowable over the teachings disclosed in Barkan.

Newly added claims 38 and 39 recite the limitations wherein the common component is variously a processor or a user interface feature. As noted above, this element is also supported at least on page 11, lines 3-4; page 12, lines 15-16 and page 13, lines 9-10 of the specification.

Claims 27-30, and newly added claims 38-39 are dependent on independent Claim 26. As discussed above, independent Claim 26 now stands allowable over the teachings of Barkan. Claims 27-30 and newly added claims 38-39 are therefore allowable, as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Within the Office Action, Claims 7, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barkan in view of Clapper (US Pat. No. 6,704,007).

Claims 7, 8 and 11 are dependent on independent Claim 1. As discussed above, independent Claim 1, as amended, now stands allowable over the cited art. Claims 7, 8 and 11 are therefore allowable, as being dependent from an allowable base claim.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-39 are in condition for allowance. The allowance of the claims is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if there are any issues that remain to be resolved prior to allowance of the claims.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Please charge deposit account 501914 for any underpayments in connection with this Office Action response.

Respectfully submitted,
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